

09-232b Play Therapy with Children – 6 Hour Seminar

Alice Barber, M.S., L.M.H.C., A.T.R.-B.C.

Saturday, June 20, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course Description

Play has long been recognized as a primary way in which children express emotions, try on different roles, experiment with big ideas and tell stories. It is the language they speak eloquently. It is also the language that we, as therapists, must continue to learn to understand. The focus of this seminar is on the use of play in therapeutic relationships with children and adolescents. Beginning with the history of play within the context of psychotherapy and current theoretical models, this course will be both experiential and didactic in its presentation. The developmental stages of children's play, themes and stages within a play therapy relationship, specific play therapy techniques and therapeutic limit-setting by the clinician will be discussed. Attention will also be given to distinctions between directive and non-directive play therapy, environmental and material concerns, and the diagnostic implications of children who do not engage in imaginative play. Specific case studies will be examined and time will be available for case consultation by participants.

Faculty: Alice Barber, M.S., L.M.H.C., A.T.R.-B.C. - Clinician, James Levine and Associates, P.C., Westfield, MA; former Clinician Mt. Tom Mental Health Center, Holyoke, MA

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to define differences between directive and non-directive play therapy and the clinical implications of both.
2. Participants will be able to identify the developmental stages of children's play and the stages within a play therapy relationship.
3. Participants will be able to identify environmental issues when creating a play therapy space, and will be able to identify essential toys needed for effective treatment.

References

- Axline, V. (1947). Play therapy. Cambridge, MA: Houghton-Mifflin.
- Landreth, G. (2002). Play therapy: The art of relationship (2nd ed.). NY: Brunner-Routledge
- O'Connor, K. (2000). The play therapy primer. NY: John Wiley & Sons.